

★ Letter Box ★

(This is the full text of the "letter" which sparked discussions concerning a movie which was shown recently at Donegal high school annex).

February 11, '64

Dear Editor,

Unless the wholesale increase of violence and lawlessness in our country is checked, American civilization will ultimately collapse on the scrap heap of history," Senator McClellan recently told the Chicago Crime Commission.

TIME Magazine (June 2, 1962) reported that of the 37,000 Americans killed last year, an estimated 50% re-

sulted from excessive drinking.

The state of Nevada, with its legalized gambling, led the nation in crime, according to a recent yearly report. It had the highest per capita rate of all the states in larceny, auto theft and forcible rape; second highest in murder and non-negligent homicide. Gambling attracts the worst type of people.

"In every instance of juvenile delinquency in this court I have found that the boys were cigaret users," said Judge B. B. Shaw, Hart, Michigan.

George K. Wyman, Social Welfare Director of New York, said, "Illegitimate children on welfare rolls reflect the breakdown in moral standards of the whole community."

"In 1900", said Dr. Amos Squire, physician at Sing Sing Prison, "the average age of criminals in America was 40"; in 1930 it was 23; today it is in the later teens — between 17 and 19.

In view of these statistics, we, a group of concerned parents, are protesting the showing of the film, "Pepe", to grades 7 through 12 of the Donegal Union School District (to 7 and 8 on Feb. 6, and to grades 9-12 on Feb. 7).

What possible justification can there be in presenting this film to impressionable teenagers? The following vices were portrayed as humorous and harmless, heavy drinking, smoking, switchblade duelling and sensuality. Are these the factors on which we want our youth to base their moral concepts? We are positive that no conscientious parent could sanction these degrading issues. This situation is indeed appalling and demands attention from those interested in the moral and ethical values of their children.

In an interview with J. Edgar Hoover, FBI Chief, as

published in the U. S. News and World Report, Mr. Hoover says, "Moral standards have declined in the home and community. Television and movies, I think, share part of the blame. The highly suggestive and, at times, offensive scenes, as well as the frequent portrayal of violence and brutality on television screens and in motion pictures, is bound to have an adverse effect on young people . . ."

Hereafter, may we suggest that all films be pre-viewed by a committee composed of faculty members and parents. Proper film selection for our teenagers is only good common sense. May we as a community rise up and demand nothing less than the best and purely cultural for our citizens of tomorrow.

A Group of Concerned parents

(The word group here includes four sets of "Mr. and Mrs.")

* - A Donegal Union School District official, contacted this week concerning the situation mentioned above, said that a minister saw the picture at the same time the boys and girls were shown the film. The preacher said later, the school official reported, that he saw nothing objectionable. Further the schoolman said, any child whose parents object to movies may be excused. That policy, he added, is frequently recited to the boys and girls.

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● Landisville

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maw were in charge.

Chris M. Nissley, Landisville, has been elected president of the Pennsylvania Grassland Council. He succeeds Ralph E. Dotterer of Mill Hall, Clinton County.

The Council arranged for the annual grassland Conference Nov. 23-24 in Nittany Lion Inn, State College.

The Altar Guild of Zion Lutheran church, Landisville met prior to the Lenten Service on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 7:30 p.m.

The United Lutheran Church Women of Zion Lutheran church, Landisville, met at the church after the Lenten Service on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. A sound filmstrip, "Each with His Own Brush," was shown. Mrs. Lorin Weigard was the leader. Cancer bandages were sewn.

Hostesses were Mrs. Charles Miller, Mrs. Jack Bidding and Mrs. Lloyd Malehorn.

Due to a teacher's meeting at Hempfield on Thursday, Feb. 13, schools were dismissed at 2:05 p.m. On Wednesday, February 26th there will be no school, due to All County Institute.

The senior class of Hempfield high shared the gaiety of Valentines Day by having a Valentine Dance for grades 9 through 12 on Feb. 15 in the Junior High gym.

The marriage of Miss Virginia Lee Kauffman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur B. Kauffman, 3775 Marietta Ave., Silver Spring, and Robert Franklin Krady, 2672 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster was solemnized recently at Zion Lutheran church, Landisville. The Rev. G. Martin Ruoss officiated. A reception was held in the church social hall.

The bride is a 1963 graduate of Hempfield High School and is employed as a secretary. The bridegroom is a 1960 graduate of Hempfield high school.

The couple will reside at 746 Skyline Drive, Lancaster.

The Topic, "As Christians (Turn to page 8)